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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

	Application No.	Applicant(s)
Office Action Summary	09/837,505	ZHOU, HONGYI
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	AZIZUL CHOUDHURY	2145	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE <u>3</u> MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.
- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on <u>10 December 2007</u>.

2a)☒ This action is **FINAL**.   2b)☐ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) <u>1-3,5,7,8,10-20,22,23 and 25-37</u> is/are pending in the application.

  4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) <u>1-3,5,7,8,10-20,22,23 and 25-37</u> is/are rejected.

7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☒ The drawing(s) filed on <u>18 April 2001</u> is/are: a)☒ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

  Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

  Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

  a)☐ All   b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

    1.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

    2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

    3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

  * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)

2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)

3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
   Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.

4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
   Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ .

5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application

6) ☐ Other: _____.

Detailed Action

This office action is in response to the correspondence received on December 10, 2007.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all

obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

> (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 26-32 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over

unpatentable over Dickinson (US Patent No: 5,640,565) in view of Pan et al (US Patent

No: 7,058,626), hereafter referred to as Dickinson and Pan, respectively.

1. With regards to claim 26, Dickinson teaches through Pan a method of managing

   information contained in a network of at least two servers, each server comprising a

   search engine, an interface, and a database, said method comprising: establishing

   one or more protocols in a uniform operative language, wherein the interface of at

   least a first server of the network can communicate in the uniform operative

   language with a second server using the protocols; transmitting a search inquiry

   comprising contact information in a first human language from the first server to the

   second server using the protocols; transforming the contact information from the

   first human language into a second human language; performing a search with the

   transformed contact information (Dickinson teaches a design for electronic business

cards (equivalent to claimed managing information) for use in a network environment (column 2, lines 20-44, Dickinson). It allows for users to browse (search) for business cards (column 7, line 49 – column 8, line 28, Dickinson). This includes attaining a business card from another computer on the network and not local to the user. Since the computers are able to communicate with one another, it means that the design allows for the computers to follow (but is not limited to) the same protocols. In addition, the design allows for an agreed upon search method, hence equivalent to the claimed uniform operative language. Furthermore, each of the workstations is equivalent to servers and since they have storage means, they are also equivalent to databases. Plus, Dickinson's design allows for central stores which function as large databases for business cards (column 5, lines 15-27, Dickinson). In addition, Dickinson teaches how inquiries can be made simultaneously (column 10, lines 4-20, Dickinson). However, Dickinson does not disclose the inquiry being performed simultaneously nor does Dickinson teach translating the query.

In the same field of endeavor, Pan teaches a search system allowing for queries to be translated from one human language to another (column 4, lines 9-41, Pan). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one skilled in the art, during the time of the invention, to have combined the teachings of Dickinson with those of Tripp and Pan, to provide query service for Internet or database users in a native language (column 1, lines 5-10, Pan).

2. With regards to claim 27, Dickinson teaches through Pan a method wherein the

    contact information is selected from the group consisting of a person's name, a

    telephone number, a facsimile number, a mailing address, a website, and an email

    address (see Figure 2, Dickinson).

3. With regards to claim 28, Dickinson teaches through Pan a method wherein the

    contact information in the first human language is encoded in Unicode (Unicode is

    simply a standard text involving 16 bits as opposed to the 8 bits used by ASCII.

    Dickinson's design requires the use of text and hence a standard must be used and

    no limitation is placed as to the type of text standard usable. Hence, Unicode is an

    acceptable text standard for Dickinson's design).

4. With regards to claim 29, Dickinson teaches through Pan a method wherein the first

    human language is Chinese and the step of transforming the contact information

    from the first human language into the second human language comprises

    transforming one or more Chinese characters into alphabetic letters (Pan teaches a

    search system allowing for queries to be translated from one human language to

    another (including Chinese) (column 4, lines 9-41, Pan)).

5. With regards to claim 30, Dickinson teaches through Pan a method further

    comprising the step of identifying a protocol allowing communication between the

    first server and the second server (column 5, lines 15-19, Dickinson).

6. With regards to claim 31, Dickinson teaches through Pan a method further

comprising the steps of obtaining a search result from the search performed with the

transformed contact information and transmitting the search result to the first server

(Dickinson teaches a system enabling the searching of contacts (column 7, line 49 –

column 8, line 28, Dickinson). Pan teaches a search system allowing for queries to

be translated from one human language to another (including Chinese) (column 4,

lines 9-41, Pan)).

7. With regards to claim 32, Dickinson teaches through Pan a method further

comprising the step of performing a search with the contact information on the first

server (Dickinson's design allows users to access and edit cards as well as utilize

cards within a collaboration (column 9, lines 2-4, Dickinson)).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all

obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

> (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set
> forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and
> the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the
> invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains.
> Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1-3, 5, 7-8, 10-20, 22-23 and 25, 33-37 are rejected under 35 U.S.C.

103(a) as being unpatentable over Dickinson (US Patent No: 5,640,565) in view of

Tripp et al (US Patent No: 6,983,322) and in further view of Pan et al (US Patent No:

7,058,626), hereafter referred to as Dickinson, Tripp and Pan, respectively.

8. With regards to claim 1, Dickinson teaches through Tripp and Pan, a network of

systems of personal and business web cards, comprising a plurality of servers with

which users may sign up to keep their contact information and through which the

users may search others' contact information, each of said servers having at least a

database a search engine, and at least one search interface, wherein at least two of

said servers are equipped with at least one interface having protocols working in

uniform operative language established to connect with each other, and wherein

when a user places a search inquiry at a first server local to the user, the inquiry is

simultaneously forwarded to one or more other servers having the same protocols

established with the first server so that any search inquiry is performed not only at

the first server but also simultaneously at said one or more other servers, wherein

said protocols of the interface are capable of transforming a search inquiry placed in

a first human language into one or more other operative human languages, thus

enabling the transmission of search inquiries between servers that operate in

different languages (Dickinson teaches a design for electronic business cards for

use in a network environment (column 2, lines 20-44, Dickinson). It allows for users

to browse (search) for business cards (column 7, line 49 – column 8, line 28,

Dickinson). This includes attaining a business card from another computer on the

network and not local to the user. Since the computers are able to communicate

with one another, it means that the design allows for the computers to follow (but is not limited to) the same protocols. In addition, the design allows for an agreed upon search method, hence equivalent to the claimed uniform search interface. Furthermore, each of the workstations are equivalent to servers and since they have storage means, they are also equivalent to databases. Plus, Dickinson's design allows for central stores which function as large databases for business cards (column 5, lines 15-27, Dickinson). In addition, Dickinson teaches how inquiries can be made simultaneously (column 10, lines 4-20, Dickinson). However, Dickinson does not disclose the inquiry being performed simultaneously nor does Dickinson teach translating the query.

In the same field of endeavor, Tripp teaches a web based search design. The design permits for simultaneous searches (abstract and claim 11, Tripp). In addition, Tripp teaches means for translating the search data (column 3, lines 38-41, Tripp). However, Tripp's translating means for searches fails to translate human languages.

In the same field of endeavor, Pan teaches a search system allowing for queries to be translated from one human language to another (column 4, lines 9-41, Pan). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one skilled in the art, during the time of the invention, to have combined the teachings of Dickinson with those of Tripp and Pan, to provide query service for Internet or database users in a native language (column 1, lines 5-10, Pan).

9. With regards to claim 2, Dickinson teaches through Tripp and Pan, a network of
personal and business web cards, comprising a plurality of servers with which users
may sign up to keep their contact information and through which the users may
search others' contact information, each of said servers having at least a database,
a search engine, and at least one search interface, wherein one of said servers is
pre-assigned as a master server and is equipped with at least one interface having
protocols working in a uniform operative language established to connect with said
other servers as slave servers, and the master server being capable of transmitting
any search inquiry to one pr more designated slave servers, wherein said protocols
of the interface are capable of transforming a search inquiry placed in a first human
language into one or more other operative human languages, thus enabling the
transmission of search inquiries between servers that operate in different languages
(Dickinson teaches a design for electronic business cards for use in a network
environment (column 2, lines 20-44, Dickinson). It allows for users to browse
(search) for business cards (column 7, line 49 – column 8, line 28, Dickinson). This
includes attaining a business card from another computer on the network and not
local to the user. Since the computers are able to communicate with one another, it
means that the design allows for the computers to follow (but is not limited to) the
same protocols. In addition, the design allows for an agreed upon search method,
hence equivalent to the claimed uniform search interface. Furthermore, each of the
workstations are equivalent to servers and since they have storage means, they are
also equivalent to databases. Plus, Dickinson's design allows for central stores

which function as large databases for business cards (column 5, lines 15-27, Dickinson). However, Dickinson does not disclose the master server being pre-assigned nor does Dickinson teach translating the query.

In the same field of endeavor, Tripp teaches a web based search design. The design permits for master servers (column 5, lines 61-67, Tripp). The assignment of the master servers does not change once the design is implemented and hence, the master servers are pre-assigned. In addition, Tripp teaches means for translating the search data (column 3, lines 38-41, Tripp). However, Tripp's translating means for searches fails to translate human languages.

In the same field of endeavor, Pan teaches a search system allowing for queries to be translated from one human language to another (column 4, lines 9-41, Pan). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one skilled in the art, during the time of the invention, to have combined the teachings of Dickinson with those of Tripp and Pan, to provide query service for Internet or database users in a native language (column 1, lines 5-10, Pan).

10. With regards to claim 3, Dickinson teaches through Tripp and Pan, a network of systems, wherein said pre-assigned master server is capable of passing on any updates that a user placed at one of servers to designated servers (Dickinson's design allows for the use of one of many protocols, including TCP/IP for network communicating (column 5, line 56 – column 6, line 3, Dickinson). In addition, Dickinson's design uses a master host (column 9, lines 55-67, Dickinson).

Furthermore, Dickinson's design allows for updated information to be transferred as

claimed (column 7, line 48 – column 8, line 26, Dickinson). However, Dickinson

does not disclose the master server being pre-assigned.

In the same field of endeavor, Tripp teaches a web based search design. The

design permits for master servers (column 5, lines 61-67, Tripp). The assignment of

the master servers does not change once the design is implemented and hence, the

master servers are pre-assigned).

11. With regards to claims 5 and 20, Dickinson teaches through Tripp and Pan, a

network of systems, wherein said servers communicate with each other through a

reciprocal uniform search interface with predetermined protocols between said

servers (As stated before, Dickinson's design allows for protocols to be followed by

the computers in the network. As in all networks, protocols must be followed for

devices to communicate with one another. In Dickinson's design, one such protocol

is the TCP/IP protocol (column 5, line 56 – column 6, line 3, Dickinson). Since

protocols must be used, and that the business cards are of the same format

throughout the network, it is inherent that the search interface must be uniform in

Dickinson's design as claimed).

12. With regards to claims 7 and 22, Dickinson teaches through Tripp and Pan, a

network of systems wherein each of said predetermined protocols is operative at

least between two of said servers in consideration of the operative languages of

said two servers (As stated earlier, Dickinson's design allows for the use of TCP/IP

(column 5, line 56 – column 6, line 3, Dickinson) on devices, such as servers, within

its network. It is inherent that all the devices within the network communicate in an

agreed upon protocol as claimed so that the devices know how to communicate with

one another).

13. With regards to claims 8 and 23, Dickinson teaches through Tripp and Pan, a

network of systems, wherein said predetermined protocols of said servers are

operated in Unicode that has correspondence with other Unicode of different

languages (Unicode is simply a standard text involving 16 bits as opposed to the 8

bits used by ASCII. Dickinson's design requires the use of text and hence a

standard must be used and no limitation is placed as to the type of text standard

usable. Hence, Unicode is an acceptable text standard for Dickinson's design).

14. With regards to claims 10 and 25, Dickinson teaches through Tripp and Pan, a

network of systems, wherein said protocols of the interface are capable of

transforming a search result into the language corresponding to the language of the

search inquiry, and thus transmitting the result back to the server placing the search

inquiry (Dickinson's design provides support for multiple protocols so that different

networks are able to communicate with each other (column 6, line 1, Dickinson)

(column 8, lines 57-67, Dickinson)).

15. With regards to claim 11, Dickinson teaches through Tripp and Pan, a network of

systems, wherein said pre-assigned master server has automatic synchronization

function to transmit updates to all designated servers whenever an update occurs

(Dickinson's design uses a master host (column 9, line 57, Dickinson) in a system

that allows for synchronization upon request (column 9, lines 24-32, Dickinson).

However, Dickinson does not disclose the master server being pre-assigned.

   In the same field of endeavor, Tripp teaches a web based search design. The

design permits for master servers (column 5, lines 61-67, Tripp). The assignment of

the master servers does not change once the design is implemented and hence, the

master servers are pre-assigned).

16. With regards to claim 12, Dickinson teaches through Tripp and Pan, a method of

managing and controlling a network of systems of personal and business web

cards, each of said systems including at least a web card server having at least a

search engine and a database, said method comprising connecting a plurality of

web card servers through the Internet; establishing at least a protocol working in

uniform operative language between at least two of said servers to enable

communication between them including transmission of search inquiries

therebetween; installing said protocols, respectively, in at least two of said servers

that communicate with each other; identifying said protocol between the servers to

establish connection and communication therebetween; and transmitting any of said

search inquires and web card information between at least two of said connected

servers so that any of said search inquiries is simultaneously performed not only at

the server where the inquiry is placed, but simultaneously also at least one of the

other servers, wherein said protocols of the interface are capable of transforming a

search inquiry placed in a first human language into one or more other operative

human languages, thus enabling the transmission of search inquiries between

servers that operate in different languages (Dickinson teaches a design for

electronic business cards for use in a network environment (column 2, lines 20-44,

Dickinson). It allows for users to browse (search) for business cards (column 7, line

49 – column 8, line 28, Dickinson). This includes attaining a business card from

another computer on the network and not local to the user. Since the computers

are able to communicate with one another, it means that the design allows for the

computers to follow (but is not limited to) the same protocols. In addition, the design

allows for an agreed upon search method, hence equivalent to the claimed uniform

search interface. Furthermore, each of the workstations are equivalent to servers

and since they have storage means, they are also equivalent to databases. Plus,

Dickinson's design allows for central stores which function as large databases for

business cards (column 5, lines 15-27, Dickinson). In addition, Dickinson teaches

how inquiries can be made simultaneously (column 10, lines 4-20, Dickinson).

However, Dickinson does not disclose the inquiry being performed simultaneously

nor does Dickinson teach translating the query.

    In the same field of endeavor, Tripp teaches a web based search design. The

design permits for simultaneous searches (abstract and claim 11, Tripp). In

addition, Tripp teaches means for translating the search data (column 3, lines 38-

41, Tripp). However, Tripp's translating means for searches fails to translate human

languages.

In the same field of endeavor, Pan teaches a search system allowing for queries

to be translated from one human language to another (column 4, lines 9-41, Pan).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one skilled in the art, during the time of the

invention, to have combined the teachings of Dickinson with those of Tripp and Pan,

to provide query service for Internet or database users in a native language (column

1, lines 5-10, Pan).

17. With regards to claim 13, Dickinson teaches through Tripp and Pan, a method,

further comprising pre-assigning at least one of said web card servers as master

server, and installing said protocols in said pre-assigned master server such that the

master server is capable of communicating with all of said servers and transmitting

any of said search inquires and web card information among the servers, including

any update of said web card information (Dickinson's design allows for master hosts

(column 9, line 57, Dickinson). Dickinson's design also allows for synchronization

and updating of business cards (column 9, lines 24-32, Dickinson). In addition, the

design provides support for multiple protocols so that different networks are able to

communicate (column 6, line 1, Dickinson) (column 8, lines 57-67, Dickinson).

Furthermore, Dickinson's design allows for searches as claimed (column 7, line 49 –

column 8, line 28, Dickinson). However, Dickinson does not disclose the master

server being pre-assigned.

In the same field of endeavor, Tripp teaches a web based search design. The

design permits for master servers (column 5, lines 61-67, Tripp). The assignment of

the master servers does not change once the design is implemented and hence, the

master servers are pre-assigned).

18. With regards to claim 14, Dickinson teaches through Tripp and Pan, a method,

further comprising pre-assigned one master server for a particular region, and

having all of pre-assigned master servers installed with pertinent protocols that

enable communication between said master servers and transmission of web card

information and search inquires among said master servers (Dickinson's design

provides support for multiple protocols so that different networks are able to

communicate with each other (column 6, line 1, Dickinson) (column 8, lines 57-67,

Dickinson). However, Dickinson does not disclose the master server being pre-

assigned.

In the same field of endeavor, Tripp teaches a web based search design. The

design permits for master servers (column 5, lines 61-67, Tripp). The assignment of

the master servers does not change once the design is implemented and hence, the

master servers are pre-assigned).

19. With regards to claim 15, Dickinson teaches through Tripp and Pan, a method

wherein each of said master servers are capable of flashing an update that occurs

within a corresponding system of personal information web card, and transmitting

such an update to other master servers having designated users, that in turn

transmits the update to the designated user so as to synchronize all personal

information data files of all designated users (Dickinson's design allows for

synchronization and updating of business cards (column 9, lines 24-32, Dickinson)).

20. With regards to claim 16, Dickinson teaches through Tripp and Pan, a method,

wherein said protocol is operative in a uniform Unicode corresponding to Unicode of

different languages (Unicode is simply a standard text involving 16 bits as opposed

to the 8 bits used by ASCII. Dickinson's design requires the use of text and hence a

standard must be used and no limitation is placed as to the type of text standard

usable. Hence, Unicode is an acceptable text standard for Dickinson's design).

21. With regards to claim 17, Dickinson teaches through Tripp and Pan, a network of

systems, wherein the user can designate, in the inquiry, a particular set of said

servers that have protocols established with the first servers (Dickinson's design

allows users to access and edit cards as well as utilize cards within a collaboration

(column 9, lines 2-4, Dickinson)).

22. With regards to claim 18, Dickinson teaches through Tripp and Pan, a network of

systems of personal and business web cards, comprising a plurality of servers with

which users may sign up to keep their contact information and through which the

users may search others' contact information, each of said servers having at least a

database a search engine, and at least one search interface, wherein said servers

are divided into groups such that each group comprises a pre-assigned master

server and one or more slave servers, and within each group the pre-assigned

master server is equipped with at least one interface having protocols working in a

uniform operative language established to connect with the slave servers within the

same group, and is capable of transmitting a search inquiry to one or more

designated slave servers, and wherein the pre-assigned master servers are

equipped with at least one interface having protocols working in a uniform operative

language established to communicate with at least one of the other pre-assigned

master servers such that a search inquiry can be transmitted among the master

servers, wherein said protocols of the interface are capable of transforming a search

inquiry placed in a first human language into one or more other operative human

languages, thus enabling the transmission of search inquiries between servers that

operate in different languages (Dickinson teaches a design for electronic business

cards for use in a network environment (column 2, lines 20-44, Dickinson). It allows

for users to browse (search) for business cards (column 7, line 49 – column 8, line

28, Dickinson). This includes attaining a business card from another computer on

the network and not local to the user. Since the computers are able to

communicate with one another, it means that the design allows for the computers to follow (but is not limited to) the same protocols. In addition, the design allows for an agreed upon search method, hence equivalent to the claimed uniform search interface. Furthermore, each of the workstations are equivalent to servers and since they have storage means, they are also equivalent to databases. Plus, Dickinson's design allows for central stores which function as large databases for business cards (column 5, lines 15-27, Dickinson). However, Dickinson does not disclose the master server being pre-assigned nor does Dickinson teach translating the query.

In the same field of endeavor, Tripp teaches a web based search design. The design permits for master servers (column 5, lines 61-67, Tripp). The assignment of the master servers does not change once the design is implemented and hence, the master servers are pre-assigned. In addition, Tripp teaches means for translating the search data (column 3, lines 38-41, Tripp). However, Tripp's translating means for searches fails to translate human languages.

In the same field of endeavor, Pan teaches a search system allowing for queries to be translated from one human language to another (column 4, lines 9-41, Pan). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one skilled in the art, during the time of the invention, to have combined the teachings of Dickinson with those of Tripp and Pan, to provide query service for Internet or database users in a native language (column 1, lines 5-10, Pan).

23. With regards to claim 19, Dickinson teaches through Tripp and Pan, a network of

systems, wherein each of the pre-assigned master servers is capable of transmitting

an update to the slave servers within the same group and other pre-assigned

master servers (Dickinson's design allows for the use of one of many protocols,

including TCP/IP for network communicating (column 5, line 56 – column 6, line 3,

Dickinson). In addition, Dickinson's design uses a master host (column 9, lines 55-

67, Dickinson). Furthermore, Dickinson's design allows for updated information to

be transferred as claimed (column 7, line 48 – column 8, line 26, Dickinson)).

24. With regards to claim 33, Dickinson teaches through Tripp and Pan a method

wherein the network of servers is divided into one or more groups of servers, each

group comprising one designated master server and one or more slave servers,

wherein the interface of the master server communicates with all of the slave

servers in a uniform operative language (Dickinson's design allows for the use of

one of many protocols, including TCP/IP for network communicating (column 5, line

56 – column 6, line 3, Dickinson). It is inherent that all the devices within the

network communicate in an agreed upon protocol as claimed so that the devices

know how to communicate with one another. In addition, Dickinson's design uses a

master host (column 9, lines 55-67, Dickinson). Furthermore, Dickinson's design

allows for updated information to be transferred as claimed (column 7, line 48 –

column 8, line 26, Dickinson). However, Dickinson does not disclose the master

server being pre-assigned.

In the same field of endeavor, Tripp teaches a web based search design. The

design permits for master servers (column 5, lines 61-67, Tripp). The assignment of

the master servers does not change once the design is implemented and hence, the

master servers are pre-assigned).

25. With regards to claim 34, Dickinson teaches through Tripp and Pan a method

wherein the master server is a master server for a geographic region ((Dickinson's

design provides support for multiple protocols so that different networks are able to

communicate with each other (column 6, line 1, Dickinson) (column 8, lines 57-67,

Dickinson). However, Dickinson does not disclose the master server being pre-

assigned.

In the same field of endeavor, Tripp teaches a web based search design. The

design permits for master servers (column 5, lines 61-67, Tripp). The assignment of

the master servers does not change once the design is implemented and hence, the

master servers are pre-assigned).

26. With regards to claim 35, Dickinson teaches through Tripp and Pan a method

wherein the master server is capable of transmitting updated contact information to

the slave servers so as to synchronize contact information present in data files of

the slave servers (Dickinson's design allows for synchronization and updating of

business cards (column 9, lines 24-32, Dickinson)).

27. With regards to claim 36, Dickinson teaches through Tripp and Pan a method wherein the network of servers comprises a plurality of master servers, and wherein the interface of a first master server communicates with the remaining master servers in a uniform operative language (As stated earlier, Dickinson's design allows for the use of TCP/IP (column 5, line 56 – column 6, line 3, Dickinson) on devices, such as servers, within its network. It is inherent that all the devices within the network communicate in an agreed upon protocol as claimed so that the devices know how to communicate with one another).

28. With regards to claim 37, Dickinson teaches through Tripp and Pan a method wherein the first master server is capable of transmitting updated contact information to the remaining master servers so as to synchronize contact information present in data files of the remaining master servers (Dickinson's design uses a master host (column 9, line 57, Dickinson) in a system that allows for synchronization upon request (column 9, lines 24-32, Dickinson). However, Dickinson does not disclose the master server being pre-assigned.

In the same field of endeavor, Tripp teaches a web based search design. The design permits for master servers (column 5, lines 61-67, Tripp). The assignment of the master servers does not change once the design is implemented and hence, the master servers are pre-assigned).

29. The obviousness motivation applied to claims 1, 2, 12, 18 and 26 are applicable to

the dependent claims.

Response to Remarks

Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-3, 5, 7-8, 10-20, 22-23 and

25-37 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in

this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP

§ 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37

CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE

MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within

TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not

mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the

shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any

extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of

the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later

than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to AZIZUL CHOUDHURY whose telephone number is (571)272-3909. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Jason Cardone can be reached on (571) 272-3933. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

AC

/Jason D Cardone/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2145